

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCCT-02 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07

SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-04 EUR-25 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 119492

P R 182247Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2283

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3266

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN BOGOTA

1. AS OF 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 18, STUDENTS AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATING FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS. WE HAVE A REPORT THAT ONE STUDENT HAS DIED, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH; STUDENTS CLAIM POLICE SHOT HIM IN THE BACK. POLICE ARE HARD PRESSED, BUT HAVE CALLED IN REINFORCEMENTS. IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATES FURTHER, GOVERNMENT WILL CALL IN MILITARY FORCES.

2. NO HARD EVIDENCE EXISTS ON CAUSE OF DISTURBANCES, BUT INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED APRIL 17 AND TALKS WITH STUDENTS TODAY SUGGEST THAT RADICAL STUDENTS AFFILIATED WITH MAOIST AND COMMUNIST GROUPS HOPE TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS AND EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT OVER WHAT THEY CALL THE "ELECTORAL FARCE".

3. EMBASSY OFFICER ON THE SCENE REPORTS THAT STUDENTS HAVE TOLD HIM THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLOSED THE UNIVERSITY UNTIL APRIL 24 TO AVOID FURTHER CONFRONTATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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